

**Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday December 1, 2003**

Start- 5:25 pm

Attendees

Robert Gittens, Chairman
Emmanuel DeJesus, Special Guest
David Crowley
Wesley Cotter
Carolyn Petrosino
Marlise Rodriguez-Garcia
Elaine Riley
Edward Dolan
Kate Carpenter
William Morales
Gary Katzmann
Steve Limon
Sayon Soeun
Robert Kinscherff
Cecely Reardon
Lael Chester
Valerie Johnson
Elyse Clawson

Chairman asks for introductions of special guests Mike Leiber of OJJDP, Emmanuel DeJesus, Shairi Turner of DPH and all JJAC members. Then spoke briefly about Emily Whiting in her new position as Deputy Director for Juvenile and Family Programs at EOPS.

Overview

- Coalition of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Asked about familiarity with OJJDP- few had knowledge of it.

Chairman spoke about the conference held in San Francisco in October, sponsored by OJJDP.

- Coalition provides training to groups
- Advocacy
- Funding to OJJDP was being reduced and coalition fought for restoration
- Some has been restored but not all- increase in dues to reduce the gap (\$2000/year)
- Do we want to join?

State Advisory Group- must be addressed!

Juvenile Detention has been an issue of focus for reform.

- Primarily preceding and post detention

- Lots of talk about DMC responsibility being taken away due to lack of funding. However lots of progress being made around the country.
- Northeast Region is very under represented- make this one of our goals? (V.J.)
- Gathering of resources regarding juv. Reform and looking to explore the option of the Annie Casey Foundation to help organize our needs (sign up sheet passed around by E.W.) Annie Casey reps can come to discuss the Foundation with the committee.

R.G.- Most states are on a city system but are looking for statewide reform, MA is an example for all.

Business Items:

- Minutes approval from last meeting?
 - o Yes
- Jim Houghton's role in JJAC
 - o Liason between JJAC and OJJDP
 - o All updates for website through PR committee (asked for volunteer for website organizer, objection to this appointment by Kate Carpenter, no appointment made at this time)
 - o Meeting retreat sign up
 - Suggestions for retreat location
- JJAC Secretary- vote (no volunteers- someone will be chosen by Chairman after meeting concludes.)
- Sub- committees to meet bi-monthly
- Eight possible multi-member groups
 - o # 5- Urban Youth to be meshed with other group due to lack of members?
 - o #3- Info. & Tech. is very important. Determines how to use data for change and reform. Data is key for DMC, at each meeting there should be a report on data points identified as priorities- an email will be sent around.
- Sub committees can consist of people outside of JJAC.

DMC Presentations

ACLU- Lisa Thureau-Gray, Board Member

Part I- Five years of FOIA requests are what compiled this report

- Disproportionate arrests of youths 1992-2002
- Data Collection Issues, focusing on poor in MA

Part II- State's Response to Data Collection

- Quality very problematic, arrest rates compared with off base comparison
- No acceptance of problem, often denial
- No action being taken, no state money being used- MA became well known for not responding to this issue.

Goal-

- Federal money meets Federal standards. ALCU is very excited with the new JJAC and the fact that the data is already looking more consistent- but still lots to be done
- Leadership is crucial- ACLE supports Federal money for DMC (the central concern in MA)

Part III- JJAC Takes Initiative Here

- RG: Please read the Three Year Plan
- KC: Is there any need for compelling change?
- LT: We need to argue with the Governor to make a change. Do not ASK municipalities to participate, make it a requirement!
- Force Committee directors to be in touch with communities

Shairi Turner- DMC, Public Health Interest and Pediatrician

Health Effect on DMC (See Presentation)

Outlined percentages through the years of troubled youths, including mental illness, physical harm and substance abuse. All are results of the system failing these children.

- ED: Agreed with Dr. Turner, to save money and help the children, the state needs to stop putting away non-violent offenders. Other solutions:
 - o Education and Immunizations
 - o Improving routine screening
 - o Improve monitoring of medications
 - o Reallocating funding for substance abuse

Health care- how do families receive health care to help avoid these problems?
Medicaid?

ED: It is eligible for many but they don't take advantage. Data collection can help target this group and find solutions.

Michael Leiber- University of Iowa, DMC Initiative in Iowa; SAG In IA & Chair of DMC Subcommittee

New Federal formula for breaking down minorities into ethnic groups (see handout)

- Target 3 or 4 jurisdictions where diversity is greatest and use a combo of the formula and challenge grant to find gaps in services, and assess the need for intervention and then create a plan.
- DMC has many causes for this such as:
 - o Detention
 - o Drugs
 - o Public Education (media)
 - o Websites, brochures

From this, it is the DMC's responsibility to:

- o Make minutes available

- Report at each meeting

The Evaluation should be:

- Plan should be updated every 3 years
- Assessments every 5-6 years
- Interventions constantly going on

Not using quota but equitable usage people find of different race/ethnicity should have similar outcomes.

Selection and Bias- different offending blames the group more than DMC mandates-
“Look at your system and see what you can do”

Formula Grant- X amount of money for youth population

You are supposed to use that money for addressing all four mandates- including sight and sound separation, etc.

LC: recommended meeting earlier than every 3 months, “We’re supposed to have oversight”- to talk about other non-compliance issues.

Emmanuel DeJesus- Academic problems

- Schools refer problem students to us
- We meet the parents/guardians
- Case management partners with Youth Guidance to have workshops addressing gangs, sex, healthcare issues, etc.
- Many options here, of established groups to utilize

End of Meeting- Please note structural changes.